

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 5th July 1879.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī" ... ..	Barāhanagar	4,000	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Comercolly	200	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Purva Pratidhwani" ... ..	Chittagong	.....	
4	"Rajshahye Samvād" ... ..	Rajshahye	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... ..	Calcutta	700	24th June 1879.
6	"Bhārat Mihir" ... ..	Mymensingh	658	24th ditto.
7	"Bengal Advertiser" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
8	"Bardwān Sanjivānī" ... ..	Bardwān	.....	1st July 1879.
9	"Dacca Prakāsh" ... ..	Dacca	400	22nd June 1879.
10	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	1,168	27th ditto.
11	"Hindu Hitaishinī" ... ..	Dacca	300	21st ditto.
12	"Hindu Ranjikā" ... ..	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	25th ditto.
13	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	20th ditto.
14	"Navavibhākar" ... ..	Calcutta	900	30th ditto.
15	"Pratikār" ... ..	Berhampore	235	27th ditto.
16	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh" ... ..	Kākiniā, Rangpore	250	26th ditto.
17	"Sādhārānī" ... ..	Chinsurah	516	29th ditto.
18	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	500	30th ditto.
19	"Samālochak" ... ..	Ditto	1,000	
20	"Samāchār Sār" ... ..	Allahabad	.....	
21	"Sanjivānī" ... ..	Mymensingh	.....	27th ditto.
22	"Sulabha Samāchār" ... ..	Calcutta	5,500	28th ditto.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
23	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
24	"Samvād Prabhākar" ... ..	Ditto	550	27th June to 3rd July 1879.
25	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	.....	27th June to 2nd ditto.
26	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ... ..	Ditto	625	26th to 28th June 1879.
27	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
<b>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
28	"Murshidābād Patrikā" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	20th June 1879.
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
29	"Urdu Guide" ... ..	Calcutta	400	
<b>ENGLISH, BENGALI, AND HINDI.</b>				
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Byāpārī;" or, The Trader ... ..	Ditto	.....	30th June to 5th July 1879.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
31	"Behār Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore, Patna	509	2nd July 1879.
32	"Bhārat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	3rd ditto.
33	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	30th June 1879.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
34	"Jām-Jahān-numā" ... ..	Ditto	250	27th ditto.



## POLITICAL.

*SAHACHAR,*  
June 30th, 1879.

WE cull the following observations from an article in the *Sahachar*, of the 30th June:—There has come a change over the destinies of India since the policy of Imperialism and India.

Imperialism was inaugurated in this country. Previous to this event, Indian affairs were not regarded as party-questions in the British Parliament; and the friends of India could be content with leaving them for solution in the hands of either party, who, on their part, would consider such matters in an impartial spirit. But all this has changed with the introduction of an Imperial policy. The Conservatives now charge the Liberals with being inimical to the interests of India, while the Liberals retort by condemning the policy and actions of their political adversaries. But if one were to judge by results, the Liberals would be found to be the true friends of this country; and the people, too, are convinced of this. It may not unreasonably be predicted that the course of policy which the Conservatives have embarked upon will sooner or later oblige Russia to become an enemy of this country. The actions of the Ministry are causing needless trouble and harassment to the people of India. As a result of their policy, we may refer to the Afghan war which, as the people believe, was not required in the interests of this country, and as such they do not consider it just that its expenses should be borne by them. In order to secure the support of Manchester at the coming elections, the Ministry have remitted the cotton duties, and thus caused a considerable reduction of the Indian revenues. They have imposed the harassing License Tax, and taken away the liberty of the Vernacular Press. In short, their policy has brought the country to such a pass as was never before the case. The Exchequer is empty, and the country impoverished and saddled with taxes, while there is a widespread distress. Could the state of things be worse? Are not the Conservatives responsible for it? Their days, however, are now numbered, and dissensions have broken out in their ranks. The Liberals will soon return to power; and India has now no other alternative than to seek their protection.

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

*HINDU HITAIISHINI,*  
June 21st, 1879.

2. We take the following observations from an article in the *Hindu Hitaiishini*, of the 21st June:—We have lived long under the British Government.

The same people who ruled this country formerly continue to administer it to the present day, but those who then used to feel for our miseries are far from doing so now. In proportion as we are drawn close to the Government, and as our attachment towards it grows in strength, are the rulers becoming stringent and unfavourable to us. Even with incessant crying we are not able to move their hearts to pity. The people regard the License Tax as a dreadful spectre, which has caused them endless trouble. The local authorities do not, however, appear to be willing to pay any heed to our repeated complaints and representations. The continuance of the License Tax has led the people to believe that the present Administration is determined to be deaf to their cries against the measure.

*DACCA PRAKASH,*  
June 22nd, 1879.

3. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 22nd June, writing from Raypura, dwells on the injurious consequences which have accrued to the ryots from the practice, on their part, of transferring by sale their occupancy and other rights. This custom, which is one of recent growth, has led to the transfer of most of the holdings from the tenantry to a small number of mahajuns and well-to-do ryots. The evicted tenants

The practice of transferring the occupancy or other tenant rights by sale.



are reduced to great misery. The zemindar reaps no benefit from the arrangement, as the sales take place without his knowledge. This practice is impoverishing the country, and if allowed to continue will produce more serious evils in future.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
June 24th, 1879.

4. We extract the following observations from the opening editorial of the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 24th June, headed "The reduction of public expenditure."

Reduction of public expenditure.

Government, it would seem, is at last about to be roused from its sleep. It has realized, to some extent, its deplorable position. There is now noticed a willingness to listen to the voice and counsels of the public which, for some years past, were systematically disregarded by Government. A hundred times over have we repeated that the Government of India was not acting like the prudent master of a household. Owing to our ill-luck, Government is beset with many difficulties; such as an unfavourable exchange, famines, and wars. There are only two ways of getting out of the difficulty—the first is an increase of revenue, and the second is a reduction of expenditure. In the present state of the country, any substantial increase of revenue cannot be expected to take place within the space of one or two years. By an increase of revenue, we do not certainly mean a hoarding up in the Exchequer of money obtained by impoverishing a people who are already poverty-stricken. A country would not be regarded as wealthy until the people living in it had grown in wealth. Under the present system of administration, however, this is not possible in a short time. Whatever be the increase of revenue, therefore, which Government may obtain by imposing fresh taxes, or devising other new methods in this behalf, the only effect will be to impoverish the people more than ever. It is to be regretted that, being unable to comprehend the common maxim of political economy, that an increase of public revenue is necessarily dependent on a corresponding increase in the resources of the people, Government is continually busying itself with schemes of taxation.

We are firmly convinced that there will be no good to this country until India is governed solely in the interests of her people; and without fearing to be charged with disloyalty, we may freely assert that this is not being done at the present time. The present system of administration serves as a point where different currents of self-interests secretly converge. The interests of the Ministry, the interests of the Indian Civil Service, &c., are some of these. The man who delivers India from the power of these different interests will be held in as much veneration as Washington, the deliverer of America, nay, by the people of this country, in a state of subjection though they be, he will be worshipped as a god. Now to the subject of the reduction of expenditure. Government appears to be in earnest in this matter, and is making retrenchments in the public works expenditure as well as in the civil departments. The army charges also have attracted attention, and Commissions will sit both in England and in this country for considering the subject. But one matter which ought to have been first attended to, and was likely to reveal much scope for reduction without requiring any lengthened inquiry, has not yet received attention. There are certain other matters, regarding which it is immaterial whether they are taken up for consideration or not; for to make any improvement therein is beyond the powers of the Government of India. We refer to the Home Government and to the offices of Secretary of State for India and his Councillors. There is no necessity of keeping up such a costly establishment as that of the Secretary of State in England. In practice, this officer is all in all respecting all Indian matters. Since most of the measures of Government



are such as are carried out under his orders or instructions, what is the use of allowing him such a large number of Councillors as 15? In our opinion, if the Indian Administration might be allowed to do its work without having the strings pulled from England, the Council of five, we have at present, is sufficient for all purposes. But who is there to raise his voice against the Home office, the Home charges, or the army kept in England for the defence of India? We are but insignificant creatures: even the Government of India has not the power to interfere in these matters. The Editor then suggests the reduction of the salaries of the Governor-General, the reducing of the Governorships of Madras and Bombay to Lieutenant-Governorships, the abolition of their expensive establishments, and of the posts of Commanders-in-Chief of the Madras and Bombay Armies, the reduction of the salaries of the Lieutenant-Governor, the abolition of the post of Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, which should form a Chief Commissionership, and the reduction of the high salaries paid to the members of the Civil Service. Natives should be more extensively appointed to high offices in the public service than at present. In conclusion, the writer would ask the authorities to discontinue the practice of making annual sojournings in Simla, Darjeeling, Nyni Tal, or other places. That the rulers should enjoy the cool breeze of the hills, while the people on the plains are pinched through want, and harassed by taxes, is not certainly a becoming spectacle. Nor is it becoming that at such a time stately edifices should be erected on the heights of Simla at an enormous cost. We are, however, really at a loss to discover if there is any generosity in the heart of Government. During the famine at Madras, it was roused from its sleep only when thousands had died from starvation. A Durbar was held when a dreadful famine was decimating the population, and a revenue of 20 lakhs has been relinquished at a time when there is want and a deficit.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
June 24th, 1879.

5. The same paper is gratified to learn that Sir Ashley Eden is shortly to proceed to Simla to serve as President of the proposed Army Commission. Although not versed in military matters, his penetrating intellect will doubtless succeed in finding out some means for effecting a reduction of expenditure. Lord Lytton has shown his power of selection by nominating Sir Ashley to this important work. We had, however, expected that in this time of their severe distress, Dacca and Mymensing would have the benefit of a visit from His Honor; but we fear this will not now be practicable. But considering the gravity of the present position in Eastern Bengal, and the circumstance that official reports regarding the distress are almost all of them rose-colored, and consequently unreliable, we would beseech His Honor to come and see the state of things in Tangail and Manikgunge with his own eyes. The construction of the Dacca to Mymensing railway, at this time, would have afforded considerable relief.

BHARAT MIHIR.

6. The same paper reminds Government of its promise to establish a sub-division at Netrakoná in the district of Mymensing. The proposal has long been sanctioned by Government, but has not yet been carried out in practice.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
June 24th, 1879.

7. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 24th June, takes a gloomy view of the present position and of the prospects of the people of this country as regards their wants and grievances. They have justice on their side, powerful friends in both Houses of Parliament, as Gladstone, Bright, Harcourt, and Fawcett in the Commons, and the Duke of Argyle, Lords Northbrook, Lawrence, and Derby in the Lords, to plead their cause; the Ministry



have more than once been defeated in argument in connection with matters affecting India; still with all this, their wrongs have not been righted, or their grievances redressed. It would therefore seem as though their miseries would never end. Debates in Parliament, or any agitations in England regarding the affairs of this country, do not therefore now excite that curiosity and interest which they formerly possessed.

8. The same paper has a long editorial on the Chowkidari Tax. The Editor complains that the punchayets, through whose agency the tax is collected, abuse the

The Chowkidari Tax.

extensive powers with which the law has vested them; that they perform the work of assessment and collection just as it pleases them; that the chowkidars are as inefficient as ever; that they have grown tyrannical towards the villagers whose money supports them, and that the tax, which is far-reaching in its incidence, does not bring them the least advantage. Since those that live under a municipality are not, while they obtain the benefit of local improvements, required to pay any taxes higher than what the inhabitants in villages are subject to, why cannot the latter also have roads, dispensaries, and other useful public works constructed from the proceeds of the Chowkidari Tax? In a village such works are more needed than the chowkidars.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
June 24th, 1879.

9. The same paper adverts to the debates which have recently taken place in Parliament on the subject of Indian finance, and remarks that the Under-Secretary of State has somehow managed to avert the attack upon the policy of the Ministry planned by the leaders of the Liberal party. The present Ministry are well up in tactics required in party warfare, and change appearances as often as the occasion demands. It is doubtful, however, whether they will thus succeed in the matter of Indian finance, for there is a real deficit. The policy of the Government is one which is not likely to bring any advantage to this country. It is one which seeks to make the Sovereign's power in England as despotic as it is in Germany and Russia, and as independent of Parliament and the public as it is in either of those countries.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

10. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 27th June, writing from Jessore, complains that, at the present time, suitors are put to considerable inconvenience from the practice which obtains regarding the service of summons on witnesses by the peons of the Small Cause Courts. Formerly, when a witness was not to be found, the practice was to affix the summons to the door of his house; and this answered all purposes. At the present time, however, the peons are required to serve it upon the witnesses directly. This is not always practicable; and the consequence is that reliable witnesses cannot always be brought before the Court in support of any suit.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
June 27th, 1879.

11. The *Sulabha Samachar*, of the 28th June, dwells on the hardship, expense, and inconvenience occasioned to the jurors who are appointed to try sessions cases from being required to dance attendance in the court for days together to the neglect of their own work. Most of them are men of limited means; and the amount of mere travelling expense often so seriously affects their pockets, that they are obliged to stint themselves and their children for some time after they have sat as jurors. The Editor suggests that Government should relieve them at least of this charge.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
June 28th, 1879.

12. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 29th June, dwells on the corruption and bribery which continue to prevail among the native officers of the law courts to the

DACCA PRAKASH,  
June 29th, 1879.

Bribery and corruption among the subordinate officers in the law courts.

Jurors in a Sessions case.



present day. The circulars, rules, and orders of Government have hitherto failed to check the evil. Litigation has increased in consequence; for with the aid of a small gratification offered to any one of the amlah, who may be in favor with the presiding officer, truth can be represented as falsehood and *vice versa*. This sad state of things, it is feared, will continue so long as uneducated men, who are utterly destitute of all moral principle, are appointed to these ministerial offices.

SADHARAN, June 29th, 1879.

13. The *Sádharání*, of the 29th June, adverts to the recent debates in Parliament on Indian finance, and to the discussions that are going on in the columns of English newspapers and pages of English magazines on topics connected with this country. The Editor believes that, if the people of India had taken advantage of this opportunity, and made a united representation to Parliament against the License Tax, which is one of the most inequitable imposts ever levied in the country by the British Government, their efforts would have doubtless met with some measure of success. Not a hundredth part of the cases of oppression which is being committed in collecting this tax ever comes to our notice, while, for want of sufficient evidence, not even a hundredth part again of those that do come is published in the papers. Hence it follows that these cases of harassment do not generally reach the ears of Government. The rulers, of course, come to know of their existence only when insurrections, as those in Surat, take place; and then it is that efforts are made to put them down by force. Otherwise, nothing is done to remove the discontent which is steadily, but imperceptibly, growing from the Himalayas to cape Comorin.

SAHACHAR, June 30th, 1879.

14. The *Sahachar*, of the 30th June, in a long article, dwells on the proneness of the executive, especially the Magistrates in the mofussil, to maintain their authority by every means in their power. In their eagerness to do this, illegalities are occasionally committed, which, instead of being checked by their superiors, are in a manner countenanced by them. Fortunately, the High Court is never wanting in its duty in this respect; and does not hesitate to condemn any irregularity which may have been committed. The power of appeal against sentences of acquittal with which the Criminal Procedure Code has vested the Local Governments is not unoften abused by the executive. The Editor would suggest the repeal of section 272 of the Criminal Procedure Code, now when the whole Act is under the consideration of the Legislature. (The whole article is taken from a recent issue of the *Statesman*.)

SAHACHAR.

15. The same paper, in an article on the reduction of expenditure, does not see the wisdom of the proposal to reduce the salary attached to the office of Governor-General, as this would, if carried out, seriously interfere with the dignity and attractions of the post. Considerable savings will be effected by discontinuing the annual sojournings in the hills, and by reducing the salaries of the officers under the Government of India. The post of Secretary to the Government of India in the Legislative Department is quite unnecessary; and his work could be conveniently done by the Law Member. If assistance was really needed, a learned, but briefless, barrister might be obtained on much cheaper terms. The posts of the Public Works and the Finance Ministers also might be abolished with advantage, and their work distributed among the other members of the Indian Council. The office of Press Commissioner with the Government of India should also be discontinued. There does not seem to be any necessity of keeping up a Chief Commissionership for the Central Provinces. The districts comprised in it may be conveniently distributed between the Presidencies of Bombay and Bengal,



and the territories under the Government of the North-Western Provinces. Assam should be re-incorporated in Bengal. The office of a Financial Secretary to the Government of Bengal is unnecessary, the Revenue Secretary being easily able to do his work. There should be only one Printing office kept up. This branch of the administration costs a large sum to Government. The Board of Revenue in Bengal might be abolished with profit, the work being divided between the Collector of Customs and the Divisional Commissioners. The writer further suggests the abolition of the post of Assistant Superintendent of Police, a reduction in the number of Judges in the High Court of Calcutta, the abolition of the Public Works Department, whose work should be relegated to the Road Cess Committees, and of the posts of Inspectors of Schools, as also of the Normal Schools in the country. In the Postal Department, the posts of Deputy Director-General and Assistant Deputy Director-General, of the Deputy Postmaster and Supernumerary Postmaster of Calcutta, and of the Deputy Postmaster-Generals of Assam, Dacca, and Behar, should not any longer be allowed to be a charge upon the revenues. There is ample room for retrenchment in the Survey Department also.

16. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 30th June, thus refers to the abolition of the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce of the Government of India:—

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
June 30th, 1879.

This Department, which on its establishment had raised high expectations, has now been after about nine years abolished by Sir John Strachey, to whose efforts it mainly owed its birth. But what work has it done during these years of its costly existence? What improvement in agriculture can Mr. Hume point to in justification of the Rs. 50,000 he has annually received from the State? Has the land been made more fertile? Has the operation of ploughing been facilitated? Agriculture is in the same backward condition to-day, as it was generations ago; why has then so much money, wrung from the hard-earned proceeds of the people, been wasted? —Who is responsible for this? the Viceroy or the Finance Minister? Who will answer these questions? By the abolition of the Department referred to, the Local Governments have had their work and responsibilities, and consequently their power, increased to a large extent; while the expenses of the Government of India have been reduced in some measure. As to the first, the arrangement has both its advantages as well as its disadvantages. The increase of the power and the responsibilities of the Local Governments is likely to ensure a greater efficiency in the work now entrusted to them, while it will render possible many improvements which were not practicable before. The disadvantage will be patent, if we consider the matter from a financial point of view. Under the scheme of decentralization of the finances, a heavy responsibility already rests on the local Governments, which have anyhow to devise their own ways and means, while the Government of India does not relax any of its demands. The consequence of this is that the former being hard pressed for want of funds is often obliged to have recourse to devices for removing it. It has been probably for this reason that certain municipalities have been required by the Local Government to bear the costs of education, medical treatment, and of other items which had been so long paid for from the General Revenues. The arrangement is neither fair nor advantageous. By the abolition of the Agricultural Department, Government has not been a gainer to any great extent. We fear the posts of a few petty clerks, &c., will only be abolished on this occasion.

#### EDUCATION.

17. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 21st June, while recognizing the benefit which is likely to accrue from the creation of an office under the Director of Public Instruction for auditing all bills con-

The proposed Audit Department under the Director of Public Instruction.

HINDU HITASHINI,  
June 21st, 1879.



connected with the Education Department—an office which is referred to in a Resolution of the Government of Bengal, dated the 29th July 1878—would still ask His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to put off the measure for some time to come for the following reasons: (1) The proposal, if carried out, will put the teachers, who occupy the lower grades of the service, to considerable inconvenience. As it is, the condition of these men is one of great hardship. Being mostly in receipt of salaries no higher than Rs. 10 or 15 a month, they manage to support their families with much difficulty, and are often obliged to borrow for the purpose; and the passing of their pay-bills with all possible despatch is therefore a matter of exceeding importance to them. Under the existing arrangement, they are all passed by the Inspectors, who do this work with all convenient speed. It is feared the same will not be possible if one auditor be required to pass all the pay-bills of the Education Department. (2) The proposed measure will lead to an increase in the work of the Inspectors. They can at present, by refusing to pass the bills, bring about an improvement of matters in any school which may have, in the course of inspection, appeared to them to need it. Now, if an auditor be appointed to relieve them of the duty of passing the bills, much unnecessary correspondence will necessarily take place before any bill can be detained, or passed after having been once so detained. (3.) The creation of a new office will lead to an increase of expenditure, which should be strenuously avoided at the present time. If the object be simply to facilitate the passing of the pay-bills, it can be easily attained by granting some additional assistance to the Inspectors' staff, instead of creating, as has been proposed, a new and costly office for the purpose.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
June 30th, 1879.

18. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 30th June, refers to the Resolution which has been recently published in the *Calcutta Gazette* regarding certain changes in the course of study prescribed for the students of the Campbell Medical School at Sealdah. The Editor, while approving of the suggestions of His Honor, would still ask for a relaxation of the stringent rules which have been framed by the Committee and sanctioned by him. In Bengal, where the people are mostly poor, medical treatment should be cheapened as far as possible; and for this purpose an increase in the number of native doctors is exceedingly desirable.

#### LOCAL.

HINDU HITASHINI,  
June 21st, 1879.

19. A correspondent of the *Hindu Hitashini*, of the 21st June, writing from Ghoshgong in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensing district, notices the hardship which is caused to the poor by the operation of the License Tax. A Mahomedan inhabitant of this village, whose monthly earnings do not exceed Rs. 3-8, and who has to support three helpless females, had been assessed for Rs. 2, and having been fined three times this amount, was asked to pay down Rs. 8 at once. This he was not, of course, able to do; and consequently his dilapidated hut, and a few brazen utensils, have been seized. He had not the means to prefer an appeal.

SADHARANI,  
June 29th, 1879.

20. The *Sádhárání*, which last week noticed a case of harassment occasioned to one Mahendra Pál by the indiscretion of a license tax collector in Chinsurah, narrates another case in this issue. One Kailás Chandra Mukherji, of Mansha Tala, in the British Chandernagore, a dealer in fuel and straw, had his *hooká* seized and taken away by a license tax officer, although the latter was informed that licenses had been regularly taken out. The article was, however, returned in the evening, with an explanation that it had been seized by "a mistake." But why are such mistakes made? Who



is responsible for them? There could not certainly be any room for mistake when the article was taken under a protest.

21. One, writing to the *Navavibhakar*, of the 30th June, complains of the hardship which has been caused to the inhabitants of Panihati in the Baraset sub-

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
June 30th, 1879.

The License Tax in Panihati.

division of the 24-Pergunnahs by the inequitable assessments with the License Tax made by one Kshetra Mohan Parámánik. This officer has quite upset the fair and carefully made assessments which had been entrusted to, and performed by, three or four respectable residents of the village; and in a large number of cases the amounts to be paid by the assesseees have been unduly enhanced. Appeals are utterly ineffectual. A shop-keeper, after having successively attended the circle officer at Baraset and Barrackpore, was told that he had been properly assessed, and that there was no need for interference.

#### FAMINE.

22. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, of the 21st June, thus writes in an article headed "What is to be done now?" It was once remarked by Sir George Campbell that

HINDU HITAISHINI,  
June 21st, 1879.

Distress in Eastern Bengal.

in this country a famine must always be presumed to exist whenever rice sells at ten seers the rupee. The condition of Eastern Bengal at this time shows that there is hardly a place in that province where this scourge has not made its presence known. The price of rice varies from five to eight seers a rupee; while there is no knowing how long the article will be procurable even at this rate. In the districts of Pubna, Furreedpore, and Dacca, many are being obliged to fast or live on insufficient rations; not a few have escaped the pangs of hunger by committing suicide. The people are growing despondent. The prospects of the crops are gloomy. Destructive floods have laid the fields entirely under water. It is time that Government and the public should be up and doing. The former could do nothing better than stop the exportation of food-stuffs from this country. Lord Lytton has incurred exceeding unpopularity by abolishing the cotton duties; let him but prohibit exportation of food-grains from India, and all this unpopularity will be removed. His Excellency should not lose this opportunity of retrieving his lost reputation.

23. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 22nd June, notices the existence of severe distress in Eastern Bengal, especially in the district of Dacca. The prevailing high

DACCA PRAKASH,  
June 22nd, 1879.

Distress in Eastern Bengal.

prices, the poverty of the people, and the drought followed by destructive floods, are some of the causes which have brought about this sad state of things. Government is earnestly besought to open relief works. The Editor takes the occasion to protest against the report which is believed to have been made to Government by Mr. Price, the Magistrate of Dacca, regarding the prevailing distress. The latter is said to be of opinion that there is not in reality much distress among the people. If Mr. Price really believes this, it is clear that his late visit to Manikgunge has been to no purpose, while the enquiries he has instituted have been simply superficial.

24. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 24th June, notices the existence of severe distress among the people of the Tangail sub-division in the Mymensing district, occa-

BHARAT MIHIR,  
June 24th, 1879.

Distress in Tangail.

sioned by high prices and destructive floods. The *aus* crop has been destroyed to a great extent. Such widespread distress as prevails at the present moment it is not possible for the zemindars to cope with. Government should promptly come to their aid, and open relief works from the proceeds of the Road Cess Funds in this district. The Dacca and Mymensing railway also should be at once taken in hand.



BHARAT MINIR,  
June 24th, 1879.

25. Correspondents of the same paper dwell on the distress caused by high prices of food-grains among the people in Furreedpore, Kishoregunge, and Comillah. Rice is not always procurable.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
June 29th, 1879.

26. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 29th June, refers to the severe distress among the poor in Manikgunge; the number of deaths from starvation up to this time is reported to have been eleven. Government is earnestly besought to afford relief.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,  
*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 5th July 1879.*